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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Border Patrol Prepared for Severe Weather *Migrants Warned About Perils of Snow and Freezing Temperatures*

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — As the worst storm of the winter bears down on southern California, the San Diego Border Patrol has put its agents on heightened alert. With snow and sub-freezing temperatures forecast for tonight, the Border Patrol is deploying additional personnel and equipment to high-risk areas, including the mountains of East County, where the weather conditions are expected to be most severe. As the cold weather moves in, the Border Patrol will be actively looking for illegal immigrants who may be in jeopardy due to the snow and harsh conditions.

A key element of the agency's emergency response is the Border Patrol's Search, Trauma and Rescue Team (BORSTAR). The BORSTAR Team is equipped with cold weather packs, rescue equipment, and a thorough knowledge of first aid and rescue techniques.

In addition to those measures, agents assigned to the Border Patrol station in Campo have established the *First Alert Snow Team (FAST)*. The Campo Station's area of responsibility includes the Laguna Mountains, which routinely experience heavy snowfall. Agents working with the FAST unit are deployed during severe weather to search for migrants who may have become stranded in mountainous areas. Being able to locate and respond quickly under such circumstance is crucial to saving lives.

The above measures are part of the United State Border Patrol's ongoing commitment to protecting human life and promoting a safe environment along our border.

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